

## REGION 4 SFIREG REPORT

***Kristen Lashley (AL), Region 4 SFIREG Representative***

**June 2, 2025**

The Region 4 spring Pre-SFIREG meeting was held May 6- 7, 2025, in Montgomery, AL. This in-person meeting also provided a virtual link for those who could not come to the meeting in person. All states in the Region (AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN) were in attendance, and EPA regional leadership staff were in attendance as well. It was announced that the Fall Pre-SFIREG will take place virtually due to funding concerns, and Mississippi will host in the Spring of 2026.

### **UPDATES GIVEN BY EPA:**

- EPA Region 4 Land, Chemicals, and Redevelopment Division Update - Gracy R. Danois, EPA Region 4
- EPA Region 4 Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division Update - Alan Annicella, EPA Region 4
- Grants Update - Richard Corbett, EPA Region 4
- Pesticide Registration/Endangered Species Update - Jenny Wren, EPA Region 4
- WPS Update - Michelle Diaz Laboy, EPA Region 4
- Certification and Training Update - Richard Corbett, EPA Region 4
- FIFRA Grant Database Update - Michael Bauman, EPA OECA

### **UPDATES GIVEN BY SLA:**

- SFIREG/POM/EQI/ESI Update - Amy Brown, FDACS
- AAPCO Update - Pat Farquhar, NCDACS
- ASPCRO Update - John Pitcock, KDA
- Fall Pre-SFIREG Update - Laura Vollor, MDAC
- National & Regional Training Updates - Pat Jones, NCDACS

During the meeting, as customary, there was a states-only session where items of concern needing to be taken forward to the Region and Headquarters were discussed. During this session, the main topics of discussion among various states in the region were the program/grant funding, workplan guidance, and uncertainty with EPA under the new Administration. Amy Brown gave a very detailed presentation on all the issues POM has been looking at and working on. North Carolina (Travis Snodgrass, Pat Jones) discussed pollinator protection.

## STATE RESPONSES TO SFIREG QUESTIONS

### Feed-Through Pesticides:

*Are SLAs encountering any issues with these products?*

**Alabama:** Not aware of any issues at this time.

**North Carolina:** No

**South Carolina:** Not aware of any issues.

**Tennessee:** Not aware of any issues at present.

### EPA Label Amendment Cover/Acceptance Letters:

*What are states currently doing with the registration cover letters regarding enforcement?*

**Alabama:** Nothing

**Florida:** The cover letters are reviewed by our Pesticide Registration Review section when new and amended pesticide product labels are received as part of our registration process. Typically, our inspection and enforcement staff would not receive or review the cover letters, as they interact with the container labels. Recently, due to this issue being raised in POM, our registration team has been instructed to notify our inspection and enforcement Bureau Chiefs when there are significant changes to a registration, such as a GUP being reclassified to an RUP.

**North Carolina:** We don't check the EPA accepted labels or acceptance letters on a routine basis. If there is something on the labeling that we receive from the registrants that we have questions about, we will take a look at the accepted labels and the accompanying acceptance letters to see if the label information matches. If we were to see something in the acceptance letters that needed attention, we would reach out to the registrants.

**Tennessee:** At present, we are viewing the process for handling the cover letters and what would be potentially required of the field staff.

### General Use Pesticides Reclassified to RUP:

**Georgia:** It would be helpful to our state if there were some other form of notification other than just the acceptance cover letter when GUPs are reclassified.

### Mosquito Control Back-pack Mist Blowers:

*Have SLAs received any complaints regarding drift from these applications in the last two years?*

*If so, what was the resolution of the complaint?*

**Alabama:** Yes. Many products used for mosquito air blast type applications do not have drift drift-enforceable label language. These drift instances must be covered under Alabama state law if possible.

**Georgia:** Residential mosquito control applications have been one of Georgia's most common drift complaints received in the past couple of years. Generally, most agricultural drift enforcement can fall back on a label statement against off-target movement for enforcement under use inconsistent with labeling. However, products we have seen with mist blowers for residential mosquito control tend to lack enforceable language on the labels against drift or off-target movement. Most situations end with advisory letters/warning letters based on a state law prohibiting "careless" applications.

**Kentucky:** Yes, but no violation was issued because the samples came back with nothing detected.

**North Carolina:** Yes. Applicator(s) are cited for other issues (PPE, license, etc.), not drift, because our regulations require the presence of adverse effects along with the drift.

**South Carolina:** Yes. Resolution depends on the presence of enforceable label language, typically limited.

**Tennessee:** No.

#### **ESA Workplan and Strategy Implementation:**

*Which states are experiencing problems with point scale and value differences between the Services?*

**Alabama:** No problems at present.

**Florida:** Florida has just had Carbaryl NMFS PULAs added to our state. The PULAs are for Sawfish habitat and base the required level of mitigation on application rate, with rates of <1 lb carbaryl/A needing to implement at least 1 runoff reduction measure, rates of 1 to 2 lb carbaryl/A requiring any combination of runoff reduction measures to achieve at least 30 points, and applications made at > 2 lb carbaryl/A requiring any combination of runoff reduction measures to achieve at least 50 points. Thus far we have not run into issues with this directly, but the points scale discrepancy between the FWS and NMFS mitigation options is a concern. Florida would like these options to be consistent between the two agency requirements.

**North Carolina:** North Carolina is represented on the ESI Working Committee and has provided feedback on these topics in WC meetings.

**Tennessee:** No problems at present.

#### **Pesticide Registration Decisions:**

*Are there any pending or upcoming registration decisions that are of particular interest or importance to your state?*

**Georgia:** 2,4-D, Diuron, Acephate, Dicamba, Imidacloprid, Malathion, Methomyl, Naled, Tribufos; Rodenticides and sulfuryl fluoride

**Kentucky:** Dicamba

**New and Ongoing Issues:**

**North Carolina:** We still are waiting for EPA to comment on or make a decision regarding the use of on-site generated hypochlorous acid as the sole disinfectant in healthcare situations in reference to a 2019 white paper.

**Private Applicator Recordkeeping Follow-up:**

States <u>WITH</u> Private Recordkeeping Authority	States <u>WITHOUT</u> Private Recordkeeping Authority
Florida	Alabama
Kentucky	Georgia
Mississippi	North Carolina
South Carolina	
Tennessee	

**STATE SUMMARIES SUBMITTED FOR THE PRE-SFIREG MEETING, SPRING 2025**

**ALABAMA:**

**BUDGET:** Budget for FY 26 looks good. No cuts or shortfalls.

**STAFFING:** We have hired two Professional Services Inspectors in Mobile and Baldwin counties. After the retirement of Field Supervisor Ray Marler on January 1, 2025, we have promoted Dustin Franchiseur on the Ag Compliance side of the house. We have three vacancies: one clerical in Registration and One Professional Service Inspector and backfilling Dustin's inspector position in North Alabama

**SIGNIFICANT CASES/ISSUES w/ SIGNIFICANT PENALITIES:** 1) The Professional Services Section for the Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries (ADAI) have been engaging in the non-compliance investigations of a large Alabama based Company since FY 2023. The investigation led ADAI and the Structural Pest Control Company (Company) to a Settlement or Consent Order for multiple label violations and multiple violations of Professional Service Laws & Regulations. The Company failed to comply with the Settlement as written and agreed upon. Prior to taking additional regulatory action, the Company was found to be operating without properly certified operators and the Company failed to comply with their financial responsibilities in possessing and maintaining liability insurance. August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025, ADAI issued a Cease & Desist Order until all financial and certified operator responsibilities were in place. Since the issuance of the Cease & Desist Order, the Company has not complied, but have shut down their operations and are no longer performing Structural Pest Control work. The Company was a large, multi-million-dollar corporation with a customer base estimated somewhere around 10,000 to 16,000 accounts with at least 8,000 termite contracts. To date, our records indicate that the Company has made no efforts in obtaining a

Professional Service permit; therefore, it appears that the Company has chosen to no longer engage in Structural Pest Control work. It also appears that the Company has closed the doors at their office location(s) and are no longer engaging in business. The Department is investigating the matter, but have no further information to provide currently. It appears no other company has or is in the process of acquiring the Company, or that the Company plans to reopen. It is likely the fact there will be no recovery, and that the Company is out of business by default with no known options, considerations, or alternatives. Thousands of Alabama consumers may need to consider the Professional Services of another Structural Pest Control company due to the poor business practices of the Company.

2) In another case, ADAI has found an Illegal and Non-Certified Company soliciting Structural Pest Control work. ADAI has found the Company is being managed or operated by an individual previously affiliated with a pest control company where ADAI pursued revocation of all permits and licenses all the way through the Court of Appeals. The Court of Appeals maintained the position to stay with the revocation, favoring ADAI's position. The individual currently engaging in Structural Pest Control is one of the individual characters involved in the case matters of the revoked and now-defunct company. It is our understanding that the individual and his new Company (under a new name) are issuing subterranean termite contracts and other regulated work at this time in which we plan to investigate further. ADAI already possesses documentation that proves illegal activities are occurring. ADAI will seek to invoke all penalties allowable by law to include injunctive relief.

3) ADAI has been made aware and is investigating an out-of-state insurance provider that operates in Alabama and writes Structural Pest Control policies to the regulated industry. There has been a complaint filed with our office and the Office of the Alabama Attorney General regarding the company issuing policies that do not meet the financial obligations as required in the statutes and regulations governing those engaging in Structural Pest Control work. The insurance provider is also excluding coverage for dominant subterranean termite species present in Alabama. The insurance provider is also not registered to operate in Alabama through the Insurance Commission. The insurance provider is also denying most claims and is trying to force all hearings to their State where their corporate headquarters are located. There are other oddities the insurance provider is doing that are resulting in quite a stir. The Alabama Attorney General is involved and is assisting ADAI in the Complaint in which we are seeking their disposition on the matter to determine if there is a deceptive trade violation or that the providers tactics are of undue influence.

**STRUCTURAL:** The Professional Services Program has hired two new employees in South Alabama leaving Professional & Regulatory Services one position open in North Alabama. This will be the first time in a long time that Professional & Regulatory Services have operated at or close to capacity in many years. Professional & Regulatory Services are investigating and pursuing illegal operators on a large scale while making sure there are no delays investigating Consumer Complaints and Neutral Investigations. I project there will be an increase in the Pesticide Use Investigations and regulatory response to the field activities that we are better monitoring to ensure compliance.

**C&T:** ADAI is working to make the necessary changes in order to begin implementation of the approved plan.

**WPS:** Status Quo.

**ENDANGERED SPECIES:** ADAI keeps three bulletins on the website updated each month showing the affected areas of the state and a table with pesticide AI/Product(s) with use limitations for the indicated areas on the map.

**PESTICIDE WASTE DISPOSAL:** ADAI hosted two pesticide collections in FY2024: Madison, AL (32,992 lbs.) and Headland, AL (63,903 lbs.) for a combined total of 96,895 lbs. of chemicals collected for disposal. ADAI plans to host one in November 2025.

**CONTAINER RECYCLING:** ADAI has a new contractor (E2A Environmental Services) in place who has been running routes in the state. No collection totals have been provided yet.

**SPECIAL PROGRAMS/INITIATIVES:** Still working on new online application to handle day to day business. The system will include product registration, certification, and business licensing. We will also be moving to electronic inspections at this time.

**PESTICIDE REGISTRATION:** ADAI plans to go live with the Ag Enterprise pesticide registration database in summer 2025. Still need to hire for a vacant position.

#### **FLORIDA:**

**STAFFING:** The laboratory bureau has filled all of its vacant Chemist positions. These positions analyze investigative/environmental samples for pesticides by gas chromatography/mass spectrometry (GC/MS) and liquid chromatography/mass spectrometry (LC/MS).

**LEGISLATIVE/RULES:** Chapter 388, Mosquito Control, Florida Statues proposed revisions part of the Florida Farm Bill, has passed the Senate and is currently in the House. Rule 5E-14 (Structural/Residential) went into effect on 4/29/2025. The revised rule is a result of the new/revised laws that went into effect July 1, 2024, for the pesticide licensing programs.

**WPS:** FDACS Worker Safety Program participated in and/or organized a total of 32 outreach events, compiling 115 hours of education, and reaching more than 1705 participants from a variety of stakeholder interests. Additionally, a total of 117 Train the Trainer certifications were administered, and 13 duplicates were processed. FDACS has prioritized outreach efforts to enhance compliance with the WPS. Key initiatives include:

- Distribution of Educational Materials: Continues to distribute printed materials and audiovisual resources (DVDs) in English, Spanish, and Kreyol. (More than 230 materials).
- Online Training Programs: This program has become a primary resource for TTT certification, benefiting over 650 participants. Additionally, FDACS published a course on “Respiratory Protection” and WPS requirements, which is being translated into Spanish to expand accessibility.
- Coordination with Advocacy Organizations: FDACS works with groups like the Redlands Christian Migrant Association (RCMA) and Farmworker Advocacy Organizations (FWAF) and other advocacy groups. Resources are distributed in multiple languages to support farmworker families.
- Focus on Heat Illness Prevention: Outreach activities now emphasize preventing heat-related illnesses during pesticide application or PPE use.

- Compliance Assistance: FDACS has increased "Compliance Assistant" activities in coordination with its enforcement section. Updates to training materials include revisions related to the Application Exclusion Zone.

These efforts demonstrate FDACS's commitment to improving worker safety and compliance through education, resource distribution, and interagency collaboration.

Funds from an EPA MPG also allowed for additional supplies to be purchased to increase outreach capabilities specific to WPS.

**ENDANGERED SPECIES:** FDACS continues to closely follow Endangered Species Act and pesticide use changes. There are no new issues to report for Florida. Staff have given presentations to FDACS inspectors and industry representatives. Since November, staff have been invited to several ESA focused meetings including FWS' potential listing of the Monarch Butterfly and its 4(D) rule and a USDA ESA-FIFRA Risk Assessment Technical Briefing to name a few. FDACS continues to engage on ESA issues at the national level, with staff representing the Department at the most recent Joint Working Committee (JWC) in Raleigh and the last AAPCO meeting in Alexandria. Staff gave presentations and participated in an ESA panel at the AAPCO event and sit on the ESI committee for the JWC. We launched our new webpage on FDACS.gov <https://www.fdacs.gov/Agriculture-Industry/Pesticides-and-the-Endangered-Species-Act> The page provides an overview and links to resources to assist the agriculture industry with ESA.

**WATER QUALITY:** No new surface or groundwater issues.

**PESTICIDE WASTE DISPOSAL:** Operation Cleansweep has completed two of the planned three rounds of pesticide pickup. It has collected from 27 sites in 15 counties for a total of 18,209 pounds of pesticides.

**SPECIAL PROGRAMS/ INITIATIVES:** **Pollinator Protection Program:** This past six months, the program was focused on acquiring materials to assist in future outreach using EPA MPG funds. These included text materials to build the program's internal resource library, demonstration hives, and microscope. The second phase of the program's websites to provide further communication and resources about pollinators including native bees is in development. Outreach is still ongoing with various stakeholders including mosquito control and beekeepers through association meetings, trainings, and blogs.

**Invasive Conehead Termite Eradication Program:** The team has been focused on restructuring and training. Currently, intensive conehead termite treatments are being conducted in all the known infested areas. Surveillance is finding fewer larger, above ground nests, demonstrating that the intensive, targeted treatments are critical. Outreach efforts continue to the local pest control industry, invasive species professionals, and the general public including an update to the program's website.

**Bed bug and Formosan termite education** is being given to thousands in the State through home shows, fairs, speaking engagements, and other pertinent events. The Formosan surveillance program throughout the State continues and is now part of the larger North American Termite Survey (NATS) and guidance is being given monthly to this group on Formosan termite trap protocols. For the fourth year in a row, the Entomology and Pest Control section supported efforts

for outreach on bed bugs and termites at the Florida State Fair. The team documented a record number of visitors with over 9200 individuals learning about termites, bed bugs, roaches, fleas, and clothes moths (proper use of mothballs).

Funds from an EPA MPG also allowed for additional supplies to be purchased to increase outreach capabilities specific to bed bugs.

**Mosquito Control:** During the past year, the FDACS Mosquito Control Outreach staff conducted or participated in outreach/education events to the State's mosquito control programs in efforts to improve program capacity. These events also include webinars that allow even fiscally constrained counties to easily obtain training. The trainings have focused on how to establish a baseline and thresholds to provide more targeted pesticide applications. Staff also assisted the FDACS AES Mosquito Control Incident Response Team last year, providing support to counties impacted by three separate hurricane events. Aerial applications targeting adult, flying nuisance and vector mosquitoes were made over approximately 4.8 million acres across Florida. Personnel attended a virtual meeting with the CDC focusing on vector borne diseases and also participated in a CTSE tabletop exercise for Oropouche. Finally, the team is partnering with VectorSurv, an online geodatabase maintained by the University of California – Davis and is supported by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and recently hosted a training focused on how Florida's mosquito control programs can enter and use mosquito population data in the mapping database.

**PESTICIDE REGISTRATION:** Florida has approximately 15017 pesticide brands registered. Review of registration requests: FDACS continued to review product brand registration requests, assuring compliance with statutes. Specific review activities are explained below. Review of marketplace labels: FDACS continued to review new pesticide labels and changes on existing product brand labels. Where problems were found that violated Florida pesticide laws and rules, FDACS notified the registrants and EPA. Coordinate review of special registrations: This included 2 SLNs, 1 SNU and 10 NAs. These registrations were reviewed by the Department and other affected state agencies through the Pesticide Registration Evaluation Committee. This Committee convened on 5 occasions. FDACS also sent a renewal request for a specific section 18. This section 18 is for product Belay and allows its use on 3–5-year-old citrus trees. In addition to this, a specific section 18 request was received for use of aldicarb on citrus. FDACS also acknowledged receipt for a request that was exempt from review by the PREC due to the size of the trials.

**OTHER SIGNIFICANT NEWS:** The Division of Agricultural Environmental Services (AES) has been working with a vendor and FDACS IT since January on the implementation of a Technology Transformation Project initiative that is Department-wide. This project resulted in new Licensing, CEU, and Fumigation databases. It is a Customer Relationship Management (CRM) portal that went live on April 1, 2025.

#### **GEORGIA:**

**BUDGET:** GDA has budget restrictions, including a hiring freeze and purchasing restrictions through 6/30/25.

**STAFFING:** Structural Pest- inspector vacancy and new hire in the South Georgia district.

**LEGISLATIVE/RULES:** The Georgia SPCC is working on rule changes related to our C&T Plan. This prompted a reevaluation of other rules while they were making revisions, and discussions are still ongoing.

**SIGNIFICANT PENALTIES:** Structural- involving the technician examination.

**STRUCTURAL:** April Pest Awareness Month Press Release & 70<sup>th</sup> year celebration of the Georgia Structural Pest Control Act. [The Georgia Department of Agriculture's Structural Pest Division Celebrates 70 Years of Service to Georgians | Georgia Department of Agriculture.](https://www.agr.ga.gov/StructuralPestDivision/70Years.aspx)

**C&T:** Potential loss of funding for manuals and groups that provide opportunities for collaboration between states is a concern as we continue to work on C&T Plan implementation.

**WPS:** Trying to increase available training and materials that stay up to date on any regulation changes.

**PESTICIDE WASTE DISPOSAL:** Clean Day is currently scheduled for May 13, 2025. The need for more disposal events is always there, but additional funding for future events is needed.

**SPECIAL PROGRAMS/ INITIATIVES:** Our EPA School IPM Grant is wrapping up this year. The IPM curriculum we developed for elementary students will be available on our website.

#### **KENTUCKY:**

**C&T:** Certification testing has been streamlined to one exam per category. There will no longer be an Operator and Applicator version. Using the most stringent test, there will only be the certification itself.

#### **MISSISSIPPI:**

**BUDGET:** Expecting cuts for this coming fiscal year. Percentage unknown.

**STAFFING:** 2 vacant inspector positions with one more retiring June 30.

**STRUCTURAL:** Dr. Santos Portugal, MSU Assistant Extension Professor of Urban Entomology, is working with the North America Termite Survey group trapping for Formosan subterranean termites in counties we have found an isolated collection to determine if we need to update our Formosan Subterranean Termite Quarantine on regulated areas.

**C&T:** Commercial certification exams in Categories I(A), I(B), and VIII were updated to revised certification standards.

**ENDANGERED SPECIES:** MDAC continues to educate applicators on BLT.

**PESTICIDE WASTE DISPOSAL:** No events this year so far.

**PESTICIDE REGISTRATION:** Over 15,000 products registered this year.

#### **NORTH CAROLINA:**

**BUDGET:** Concerned with looming cuts to STAG Funds!

**STAFFING:** We currently have about 12 vacant positions. We have changed the funding source for several vacant positions to federal funds. Hopefully, this will save federal dollars should further issues arise with funding.

**LEGISLATIVE/RULES:** Two current bills of interest -

Senate Bill 451 - a bill to be entitled an act to reduce continuing education requirements for certain occupational and professional licensing boards.

HB 763 - a bill to be entitled an act to provide for occupational licensure recognition for individuals licensed in certain neighboring states who establish residence in this state.

We are researching to see if either would affect our C&T Rule's standing with EPA if enacted.

**STRUCTURAL:** A Structural Pest Control Committee meeting was held on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 with four Settlement Agreements approved and a total penalty amount of \$5,400. Also, the Committee voted for final approval of Rules Revisions related to Certification & Training Plan requirements.

Our staff participated at the 75<sup>th</sup> Annual N.C. Pest Management Association PCT School held in Durham, N.C. from January 27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Training provided included Pest, Wood and Fumigation topics that our staff monitored, and a Certification Exam session was administered. Approximately 1,000 Structural Pest Control Industry members attended with over 3,900 continuing education credit hours awarded. There were 206 exams administered for 76 test-takers. Our staff also maintained a booth that provided Structural Pest outreach information and guidance regarding credit hours, license/certification matters and upcoming Rules & Regulations revisions pertaining to the C&T Plan.

Structural Pest Control Rules Revisions related to the C&T Plan were published on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. Outreach and information have been provided to PMP's on our website, emails, bulletin articles, presentations and seven workshops have been scheduled throughout N.C. in May 2025. A total of nine Rules has been revised, and enforcement will begin on July 1, 2025.

We currently have three Inspector vacancies with two located in Eastern N.C. and one located in Western N.C. We are actively recruiting to fill the Pesticides and Structural Administrative Specialist position.

**C&T:** The C&T rules have all completed Rules review and been implemented. We are not actively citing violations of these new regulations but are in a compliance period while we get the word out to the public through inspector visits and outreach events. The new Core manual is nearing completion by NCSU and the new regulations as well as the additional minimum required content will be included. With the new Rule implementation, our Pesticide Core exam will now include content allowing the Structural section to utilize the same exam for their testers. Our Private Commodity Fumigation and Private Aerial exams are live available upon request. We continue to struggle with vacancies in the Licensing Unit, with an ongoing vacancy in 1 of our 2 Pesticide Certification Specialists, and a Pesticide Administrative Associate.

**ENDANGERED SPECIES:** The SPCPD Environmental Toxicologist is an active member of the SFIREG Endangered Species Strategy Implementation Working Committee, which focuses on implementation of EPA's ESA strategies for pesticides.

The SPCPD Environmental Toxicologist also participates in monthly calls with PSEPs to discuss ongoing training resources and needs.

SPCPD staff continue to review draft biological evaluations for active ingredients as they are released, as well as reviewing any new restrictions in the state using Bulletins Live! Two.

**WATER QUALITY:** The SPCPD Drinking Water Survey for triazine herbicides and breakdown chemicals was available in North Carolina for farmers during this period. Well testing information is sent to newly certified private applicators and recertifying private applicators as a part of their renewal application. As a result, from October 1, 2024, through March 31, 2025, 322 drinking well water survey letters and 56 well water sample collection kits were mailed. During the reporting period, 11 well samples were analyzed by the NCDA&CS Food & Drug Protection Division laboratory with an atrazine immunoassay test kit using EPA SW-846 method #4670 for drinking water. All results were non-detect for triazine herbicides and associated breakdown products.

NCDA&CS SPCPD staff checked the National Water Quality Monitoring Council's Water Quality Portal for any data collected from October 1, 2024, through March 31, 2025. No data was available. NCDA&CS SPCPD staff reached out to EPA, who confirmed that there was no data in the portal for this period. Historically, USGS has sampled three locations in North Carolina several times per year. NCDA&CS SPCPD staff has reached out to USGS but has not received a response to date. Past data indicate that imidacloprid exceeds the chronic benchmark for aquatic invertebrates, but no consistent trends are observed.

**PESTICIDE WASTE DISPOSAL:** During the 2024 calendar year, NC's Pesticide Disposal Assistance Program (PDAP) provided over 150 contractor-assisted collection events and collected 234,453 pounds of pesticides. A new program calendar year record that eclipses the previous calendar year record by over 8 tons. Despite the truncated 2020 (Covid) collection year, the PDAP has seen its 12 highest collection years in the most recent 12 years and is now averaging almost 202,000 pounds per calendar year over the past 5 years.

Outreach efforts include TPSA (The Pesticide Stewardship Alliance) and the (North and South) Carolina Recycling Association (CRA) – Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Council. The PDAP was active in the TPSA Membership Committee, TPSA Conference Committee, and serves on the Disposal/Treated Seed Committee for TPSA and also presented at the 2025 Conference in early February 2025. Involvement with TPSA assists the PDAP with many topics related to disposal issues nationwide and in NC. The PDAP also helped organize and participated in an HHW Workshop for the recently completed 2025 CRA Conference with the PDAP present as part of a panel discussion on 'Tricky Trash' along with other and state-wide HHW programs, regulatory agencies and recycling and HazMat businesses. PDAP also serves as HHW Council core-members and current Council President. The partnership with the HHW Council is vital as pesticides are an integral part of HHW and NC HHW interest remains strong as the number of HHW programs throughout the state continues to increase.

**CONTAINER RECYCLING:** The Pesticide Container Recycling Program currently has approximately 208 sites in NC where farmers and commercial applicators can recycle plastic pesticide containers that don't exceed 55 gallons in size. The containers were collected and granulated by two companies: USAg Recycling, Inc. and Ag Plastic Solutions. Processed materials are used to make

industrial products. Even with challenges concerning consistent servicing, during calendar year 2024, 258,471 pounds of pesticide containers were recycled from participating counties, thereby recycling waste which would otherwise pose a risk of contamination to surface and ground water, in addition to taking up landfill space. Since its inception in 1995, over 11.5 million pounds of plastic pesticide containers have been recycled in North Carolina. Pesticide Inspector II's conducted audits of 18 county pesticide container recycling sites in 16 counties from October 2024 through March 2025, inspecting each site for cleanliness and number of containers, protection from rain, and working with county personnel on any issues found. During the reporting period, two grant proposals were received and awarded for a total of \$5,900. Funds were awarded to Hyde and Washington Counties for the purpose of moving collection sites to locations where they can be better monitored.

**NEW ISSUES/CONCERNS:** We investigated a product, Apitablet, that we saw at the NC State Beekeeper's Annual Meeting because it contains thymol, which is known to control mites in hives, but the product is not a registered pesticide. The product claims to promote "bee health", but we acquired statement s from a dealer and customer stating that the manufacture's salesman said that the product will control varroa mites. We are forwarding our investigation report to EPA Region 4.

**FEE CHANGES:** Currently trying to request an increase in PETF assessment funds.

**PESTICIDE REGISTRATION:** SLNs Pending: Sniper Insecticide: Control/suppression of insects, especially balsam woolly adelgid and spruce spider mite in Christmas trees. Current Sniper label does allow use in Christmas trees, but only in Oregon and Washington. According to the registrant, this was a "clerical error" and they have submitted an amendment to the EPA to remove the restriction. There are other bifenthrin products that are labeled for Christmas tree use without the restriction. However, according to Extension, sourcing these products is difficult in the primary growing locations in our mountains due to limited pesticide dealers and residual travel difficulties due to Hurricane Helene.

SLNs Requested & Not Issued: Salibro: Control of nematodes in sweet potatoes by post-emergence soil-directed (lay-by) application. Salibro is already registered for use in sweet potatoes, but the lay-by application method is not specifically mentioned on the label. It was determined that this additional application method could be recommended using a 2(ee) bulletin. SLN registration not needed.

New Registration System: Our new pesticide registration system is now active. Issues do continue to pop up and additional revisions and testing will continue. However, for the most part, it is working sufficiently enough for us to conduct our day-to-day activities. It has many features that are an improvement over the old system, and once the additional fine-tuning is done, the speed of registration actions will increase.

#### **SOUTH CAROLINA:**

**BUDGET:** DPR is currently operating on university-wide restrictions. Travel and expenses require multiple levels of approval, even though Departmental revenue remains steady.

**STAFFING:** We are currently down a lab chemist position and have been since July 2024. We requested to fill the position, but have not received approval from the University. We anticipate the retirement of at least 1 field position in 2025.

**LEGISLATIVE/RULES:** No planned modifications. SC is currently facing two proposed pieces of legislation. One will create an exemption to the local ordinance ban for SGARs, allowing municipalities to regulate them locally. The other bill requires ALL (no exemptions) persons applying barrier mosquito applications to be licensed with the DPR for free. DPR does not support either of the bills.

**SIGNIFICANT CASES/ISSUES w/ SIGNIFICANT PENALTIES:** The most frequent violations resulting in significant civil penalties are unlicensed commercial turf & ornamental operations performing applications of general-use and restricted-use pesticides, persons using pesticides not in accordance with label directions, and persons falsifying records. Also, a few inspections have discovered unlicensed RUP dealers selling restricted-use pesticides. Criminal penalties have been issued for two cases originating as animal poisoning investigations.

**C&T:** Implementation for C&T changes will begin in the 2026 legislative session with full compliance by December 31, 2029. DPR has continued to provide updates and online presentations across the state to educate South Carolina applicators on category-specific recertification requirements, licensing protocol, examination process and keeping in compliance with state and federal pesticide regulations for South Carolina.

DPR continues to approve all recertification courses/programs according to South Carolina's regulation requiring continuing education training hours for all pesticide applicators; private, commercial, and noncommercial. DPR also approves recertification courses that meet the category-specific recertification hour requirement for individuals licensed in the mandatory licensing categories: 3, 5, 7A, 7B and 8. Commercial and noncommercial South Carolina pesticide applicators are presently in the second year of their five-year block which ends on 12/31/2028. Private applicators are in the first year of their five-year recertification accrual block.

South Carolina's Recertification program continues to expand, and online training courses and webinars are a large portion of the total courses submitted into your state for recertification consideration.

**WPS:** South Carolina's Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) continued to implement and enforce the revised EPA Worker Protection Standard regulation for the 2024-2025 reporting time frame. inspection year. We have continued to help prepare SC growers to meet the requirements of the revised WPS regulation via online methods as well as in person meetings. During this reporting time in-person and online meetings have been conducted to access inspector training needs and to address areas of concern while conducting WPS inspections. The Ideagen inspection application program is currently being used for all WPS inspections during this reporting time. All WPS inspections are entered into this new online inspection database system. All routine WPS inspections on farms, forestry, nursery and greenhouses inspections are entered into this system from the field. All completed WPS case files are reviewed to ensure the cases are correct and complete. Outreach materials which, included PowerPoint presentations, handouts for family farms and resource contact lists were updated and used by the field to aid in their inspection efforts. Training videos

have been distributed to growers across our state who have limited or no access to the internet. SC continues to be an active council member of the South Carolina Migrant Health Advisory Council for South Carolina. Ms. Lognion represented SC in the EPA/State Regional WPS Stakeholders meetings held throughout this reporting time frame. SC collaborated with Clemson's Rural Health Mobile Health division for this growing season to reach the agricultural seasonal and permanent workforce in regard to pesticide safety. Ms. Lognion arranged for EPA personnel to meet with Rural Health personnel and tour the migrant health outreach mobile units. South Carolina's WPS program continues to meet all required and projected areas outlined in the EPA guidance. South Carolina's DPR WPS inspection numbers and WPS 5700 forms were completed during this reporting time frame.

**ENDANGERED SPECIES:** SC has kept abreast of the changes regarding pesticide labeling, territory maps, bulletins and label information released by EPA regarding Endangered Species impact areas in South Carolina. Links to the Bulletins live and ES territory maps have been sent to all field staff to address in their inspection efforts in 2025. ES outreach brochures are handed out upon request at meetings and tradeshows. South Carolina's DPR brochure supplies are limited due to lack of funding by EPA for this program. Funding by EPA is a necessity for this program to succeed to its full potential.

**WATER QUALITY:** DPR will evaluate Pesticides of Interest to the State through its groundwater sampling program. During 2025, DPR is scheduled to collect 40 groundwater samples from wells located in rural areas, at farms, at golf courses and/or nursery/greenhouse operations. As of April 24, 2025, DPR has already collected seven groundwater samples. DPR will report the detection data to EPA and the well owners as in previous years.

**PESTICIDE WASTE DISPOSAL:** This program is hosted by the South Carolina Department of Agriculture.

**CONTAINER RECYCLING:** 4th Quarter 2024 – 5600 lbs.  
1st Quarter 2025 – 15,600 lbs.

**SPECIAL PROGRAMS/INITIATIVES:** Outreach and educational materials continue to be distributed to school district personnel and pest control personnel as ongoing outreach for SC's IPM in Schools program. SC's IPM in Schools Program continues to be addressed during DPR inspections and outreach trainings across the state.

**NEW ISSUES/CONCERNS:** DPR received a request for regulatory assistance by the town of Kiawah Island. The request was to ban the use of rodenticides on the island and was supported by 2 local legislators. DPR denied the request. DPR classified all SGARs as a state RUP, effective January 1st, 2025.

**PESTICIDE REGISTRATION:** 16,798 – Current total Approved Products with 8/31/25

- 194 (2024 Non-renewals)
- 13,252 (2025 Renewals)
- 762 Product Cancellations (7/1/24 – 4/22/25)
- 916 New Product Registrations (7/1/24 – 4/22/25)

990 – 25(b)

**OTHER SIGNIFICANT NEWS:** DPR has received requests for the 24 (C) registrations for generic Dicamba OTT from the Soybean/Corn and Cotton growers associations in South Carolina. DPR does not intend to pursue either. DPR received a request to register Kaput for feral hog control. The request was denied based on the product's impact on non-targets.

**TENNESSEE:**

**BUDGET:** No spending cuts at present.

**STAFFING:** No reductions in positions at present.

**STRUCTURAL:** Still working on criminal charges for 2 illegal companies working in TN.

**C&T:** Has submitted the modification for the Scheduled Implementation Timeline for the C&T Plan.

**WPS:** Status Quo within the state.

**ENDANGERED SPECIES:** Status Quo within the state.

**WATER QUALITY:** Status quo within the state.

**PESTICIDE WASTE DISPOSAL:** At present, this program is on pause and is being re-worked. We are waiting on the amended contract so we can move forward.

**CONTAINER RECYCLING:** Status quo within the state.

**OTHER SIGNIFICANT NEWS:** We have merged with Agi Inputs and the new name is Feed, Seed, Fertilizer and Pesticide. Changes will occur within the office and not the field staff.